

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend FIG. 14 of the drawings. A replacement page has been attached.

FIG. 14 is amended to replace the reference numeral 90 with reference numeral 88 to designate the biasing layer on the right hand side of device 74.

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated July 13, 2006, in which a restriction requirement was made between Group I (claims 22-27); Group II (claims 1-15) and Group III (claims 16-21).

With this Amendment, Applicant elects the claims of Group II (claims 1-15), with traverse.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, Inventions I and II-III are stated to be related as combination and subcombination. The Office Action then identifies Invention I as the combination, and Inventions II and III as the subcombinations. A review of the claims shows that this characterization is in error.

Independent claims 1 and 16 are both directed to a magnetic reader including an MR sensor and a magnetic shield. Independent claim 22 is directed to a shield for a read element of an MR sensor. Claim 22 is directed to the subcombination, (the shield) rather than the combination of an MR sensor with a shield (like claims 1 and 16). Thus, the characterization of the claims found in the Office Action, and the justification of restriction on that basis is flawed.

A comparison of independent claims 1 and 16 show that both include an MR sensor, and both include a magnetic shield. In claim 1 the magnetic shield is referred to as "domain wall free" while in claim 16 the layers of magnetic material are stated as being in a "single domain state". A material that has a "single domain state" is "domain wall free". Both claims 1 and 16 include a quiet zone, which is the feature which defines the present invention with respect to the prior art.

Independent claim 22 is similar to claims 1 and 16, except that the MR sensor is referred to in the preamble and then again at the very end of claim 22 in describing the interaction of the shield with the MR sensor. Like claims 1 and 16, claim 22 includes a quiet zone.

For these reasons, the restriction requirement is inappropriate and should be withdrawn. Although claims 1-15 have been elected with traverse, examination of all of the claims 1-27 is requested.

The Specification has been amended to correct a typographical error appearing at page 9, line 29. Claim 2 has also been amended to state that "in the quiet zone the biasing layer does not overlay the MR sensor." This grammatical correction makes claim 2 consistent with the Specification and Drawings.

Finally, an error in FIG. 14 has been corrected. The reference numeral 90 directed to the right hand biasing layer has been replaced with reference numeral 88. A sheet of replacement drawings is submitted with this Amendment and Response.

With this Amendment and Response, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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